

9 April 70

Harold:

I have much of your correspondence to comment on, but not time to do it all thoroughly. Please excuse if I omit some things. The topics follow no fixed order-- just whatever comes into my hands.

6.5 M*C velocity: In comparison with other military ammo, this is among the ~~lowest~~ lowest in velocity. In the class of military ammo, I would unequivocally call this very low velocity. This refers to ammo available when the M-C was developed and subsequently-- prior to World War I there were slower military rounds, but not many. At the time of M-C development and later it was and remains among the slowest. Of military ammo, I think only the 5.6 Japanese Arisaka is as low, and I can think of none lower (I do not have ballistic tables before me-- I'll give you exact figures if you want. Just ask; otherwise I'll not comment on this again)

JFK head movement: I shall be interested to learn what Paul comes up with. As I mentioned to Howard, the burden of proof is with those who wish to contradict what seems (is!) natural. Even if successful, Paul will do no more than prove it is possible, which in itself is not sufficient. Anyway, I think that he will fail. I am ~~wary~~ wary of "scientific" approaches like Thompson's. They often turn out convincing ("irrefutable" by those who do not use scientific jargon), but untrue. WE'll see.

My letter to Wecht: This is in accord with what I now believe; I abandoned my former notion, for this makes much more sense, especially in light of other things which tie into this.

If Wecht is affirmative, that will be dandy in the extreme. If not, there is still a good case to be made for a switch-- on the basis of the other things that I mentioned in the letter.

If it happens that there was a switch and that we can prove it beyond doubt-- and even establish that my hunch was right-- I strongly suspect that that old ~~snake~~ shibboleth, "the Kennedy family", will be blamed for ~~it~~ it.

Other things may have happened to the body in the unaccounted-for time that you mention in you 24 March letter, but I now think that it was not what I originally suggested.

Me with you at court: If it is at all possible, I will be close by. I cannot now say for sure, because I do not know your timetable or the timetable of what is required for the completion of my Ph.D. I must do that this summer; I shall have definite and very pressing commitments, but I don't yet know when. Hopefully I shall have all of it out of the way by the end of June, but I cannot now be sure. It weighs on me like a ton of canaries (as Dean Andrews, might say). But I want to be with you, so keep me posted and I may be able to plan for it.

My friend Bob Gordon has moved from Annapolis to a small town between you and Washington (closer to Wash.-- I can't remember the name of the place). It is convenient as hell to both you and Wash., so I can stay there if your place is crowded.

399 photo: There seems no need further to prove that your photo is the one that Archives attributes to Nichols. The question is how did all this come about. I am inclined to think that Archives is to blame, for this whole matter would be out of Nichols' hands.

Advice that you have probably already thought of: next time you have such pictures taken, provide your own metric scale and have them return it with the picture. I know that Nichols had done that, and I now see the sense of it.

Papers for suit: I wish to keep a copy. If I think of it later and have time, I'll copy and send you what Bud sent to me. I agree that the case cannot be beaten by any fair means.

Dynamite: I have no special knowledge of things relating to this. I'll check books on criminal investigation and see what I can find. I am sure that Hatcher, Jury, and Weller have a chapter on this, but that book is not readily available to me.

Rap Brown bombing: The notion of accidental detonation sounds fatuous in the extreme-- just cud for the press to chew on. I didn't believe it then and don't believe it now. If dynamite was used it would have to be detonated with blasting caps-- the caps could not be blown without a lit fuse or some electrical device attached. I would think it almost impossible accidentally to detonate in the circumstances that the police describe. The person causing the detonation would have to have been playing with matches ~~or~~ or fooling with attached wires. The police version is stupid. And they know that it's stupid.

Other bombings (Big Business): Here I suspect Right Wing action with intent to have Left Wing blamed. I guess this more from the smoke than from the fire. I know of no LW group with the ~~technical~~ technical capability to produce such bombings, not the coordinative sense, not the ability to deliver the bombs to their targets. The RW groups have all that capacity and more. Then there is Kleindienst's ~~xxxx~~ hedging over placing blame on the Left. If there were the slightest grounds for blaming the Left, K would have gone for their throats. Instead, he says this (Newsweek): "I would describe them as isolated incidents," declared Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, who is ordinarily sharply critical of radical exponents. "I would not exaggerate their importance. I do not connect them with the radical movement." There is only one sort of information that can have inspired that apparent display of fairness-- the information that the bombings were done by rightists. I could go into greater detail, but I'm sure that you are thinking the same things as I. The swine press gobbled up all the pearls that were cast before them, as was to be expected. God, how I hate those bastards!

Penn Jones: I have read his latest, even before you commented on it. My impression then, as now, is that where it's not frightful it's merely sad. If only it were possible to convince such people that they are making bats of themselves with which others will beat down serious critics. Jones has cast so much chaff into his wheat that he has debased whatever good might have come from his efforts. Sad; just plain sad.

Other things that I have to say will be contained in letters to Roffman-- I'll send copies. Also I have some more mail of yours to answer, but I can't locate it right now, and may have to respond later on it.

We still have a bit of snow on the ground, but otherwise we are on the verge of Spring. Most of the lakes are thawed or thawing, too, so I may be able to get by boat out on them soon.

The biggest news at home is that we have recently acquired a poodle pup-- 3 months old. A little darling thing. I tell myself how nice it is for the kids to have a dog, but if the truth be told it is I who am having the most fun with it.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ We named him Chimo. Chimo is an Eskimo word that the Eskimos (and recently some other Canadians) use as a drinking toast. I think it means "I am friendly". He's all white; not yet clipped in poodle fashion.

I am still fussing with relief sculpture when I get a chance, though lately I have not had much of a chance. I am on my third piece now, and still going good. So far each piece has been better than the previous one, so I can hardly wait to finish this and start another. When I get photos of them, I'll show them to you.

Still,

Dick

P.S. My conservative friend in Massachusetts has been sending me clippings on the Teddy/Mary Jo case. Does that case interest you enough to warrant my spending time with it?